

1. The compounds of claims 2-4 are produced using the process of claim 1. These compounds are otherwise unstable and cannot easily be used in a commercial manner unless stabilized.

2. The only significant utility of the compounds is as sources of the corresponding cyclopropene compounds which are generated by the process of claims 5-7.

3. The only significant utility of the compounds is the subject of claim 8.

As noted in the Specification, page 2, lines 12-18 and 21-23, the invention solves the problem of providing an ethylene inhibitor that is storage stable over a long period of time, is not susceptible to self-degradation and eliminates the significant risk of explosion associated with the handling of cyclopropenes. The invention solves these problems by utilizing certain precursors of the cyclopropene class of ethylene inhibitor molecules in which the double bond is eliminated by binding moieties to each carbon atom component of the double bond. These precursors have increased storage stability. In practice, the precursors are converted to their corresponding cyclopropene molecule when treatment of the target plant parts is desired. Thus, each of the groups is part of the same inventive concept.

Election of Species

For search purposes, Applicants elect the species of claim 4, 1,2-diiodo-1-methylcyclopropane.

During prosecution of this Application, should the Examiner have any suggestions which may put the Application in better condition for allowance, Applicants' attorney is willing to discuss any such suggestions either by phone or at the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas D. Rogerson

Thomas D. Rogerson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 38,602
Telephone: 215-619-1569

Patent Department, 7th Floor
Rohm and Haas Company
100 Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2399
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